

It is no secret that improving and strengthening education is essential if we as a nation hope to maintain our competitive edge in today's global marketplace. I will continue to fight for the resources our schools in Upstate New York need to grow our economy and raise the next generation of leaders.

I have supported - and the House has passed - legislation to improve and reauthorize the national Head Start program, add thousands of highly qualified K-12 math and science teachers to our schools, and expand access to higher education. I believe we must fully fund No Child Left Behind and fund the IDEA program at the 40% level that federal government originally agreed to. [Read More](#) , [More](#)

Making College Affordable

The economy is changing, and new jobs require new skills. Unfortunately, while wages have gone down, the cost of higher education has risen and hard-working middle class families find themselves priced out of providing the best educational opportunities for their kids. I've seen the results first-hand as a father of two teenagers.

The rising cost of college is a concern nationally, but especially for the colleges and universities of the 24th district that provide jobs, resources, and a sense of community in the cities they call home. That's why one of my first official acts as your Congressman was to cosponsor and vote for the College Student Relief Act (H.R. 5), bipartisan legislation that will cut subsidized student loan rates in half, helping students gain access to higher education. H.R. 5 will save students an average of \$4,570 over the life of their loan. This not only helps students and their families, but it benefits all of those employed in the education industry in Upstate New York. [Read More](#)

I continued my commitment to help middle class families pay for higher education by voting for the largest increase in student aid since the GI Bill - The College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 (H.R. 2669). This bill would increase financial aid by about \$18 billion over the next five years. It would increase maximum Pell Grant awards to \$5,200 by 2011, providing assistance to over 5.3

million college students. The legislation pays for itself by reducing excessive federal subsidies paid to lenders in the college loan industry by \$19 billion.

According to Congressional Research Service estimates, students and families in New York would see \$1,135,000,000 in additional aid from decreased interest rates on need-based student loans and increased Pell Grant scholarships over the next 5 years.

In New York, there are 243,696 subsidized loan borrowers attending 4-year institutions who will accumulate over \$14,000 in loan debt. In the 24th district alone, there are 12,681 borrowers attending our eight outstanding four-year colleges and universities and four two-year institutions. [Read More](#)

I'm honored to be able to help our local colleges succeed in their mission to provide quality education for everyone who wants to get ahead. I will continue to fight for legislation that supports students and their families, growing our economy for generations to come.